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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC #6297-80/1
17 September 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning


FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Africa

SUBJECT : Warning Report: Sub-Saharan Africa ☐ 25X1

1. Action Requested: None; the attached report is for your information. ☐ 25X1

2. Background: Community representatives and specialists met on 16 September 1980 with the NIO/AF as chairman. The attached report has not been coordinated with the other participants, but is being circulated to them. If they feel their views have been misinterpreted, or if they have significant additional concerns, I'll report further to you. ☐ 25X1

3. Personal Observations: I am somewhat more concerned over the next three months than were the analysts attending the meeting with the situation in East Africa. All three countries (Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania) have severe economic problems, and Tanzania and Uganda may well suffer increasing internal political tension and disruption. While no warning of a specific event can be given, there is substantial likelihood of disruptive civil war in Uganda, and the possibility of a military coup in Tanzania cannot be discounted if the economic situation there does not improve rapidly. ☐ 25X1


L. Gray Cowan

Attachment
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SUBJECT: Warning Report: Sub-Saharan Africa

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WARNING REPORT: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA* No. 23

HORN OF AFRICA

We see heightened danger of Somali-Ethiopian hostilities in the border region primarily as the result of Ethiopian efforts to move closer to the border and eliminate pockets of WSLF activity but also as a result of Ethiopian efforts to prevent implementation of the US-Somali access agreement. We expect that Ethiopia will try to strengthen and energize the anti-Siad Somali Salvation Front. We neither see preparations for nor do we expect a major Ethiopian invasion of Somalia at this time. The hostilities we consider most likely would be relatively small and intended for localized military advantage and political impact. The possibility of brigade-size or larger Ethiopian attacks on or across the border cannot be discounted, but would most likely be the result of Somali moves or Ethiopian perceptions of Somali intentions. [] 25X1

Ethiopian forces will likely mount the long-planned campaign against the Tigrean rebels. Mengistu will continue at least the facade of negotiations with the Eritreans, but most analysts believe his ultimate goal is to buy time and isolate the Eritreans from their foreign support so that a final military solution to the question can be achieved. [] 25X1

TANZANIAN-KENYAN TENSION

Mutual suspicions, [] 25X1

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has caused Tanzania to order troops to its border with Kenya. We see tension mounting between these neighbors, especially in the period before the Tanzanian elections in October with the greatest danger of unanticipated hostilities deriving from miscalculation of intentions on both sides. Developments with Uganda are seen as a potential catalyst. [] 25X1

UGANDA

The possibility of Ugandan elections before December was considered most unlikely but in the meanwhile there may be increased internal disorders fomented by competing parties inside the country and attempts to

* This memorandum is one of a series produced monthly by NIO/AF. Its purpose is to review possible developments in the short-term future that would be damaging to US interests. Obviously many of these developments will not occur in the time frame or in the manner suggested, or will not occur at all.

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prevent elections by dissident external groups. The situation could deteriorate to the point of full-scale civil war. []

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ZAMBIA

Analysts continued to be concerned over dissatisfaction within the Zambian military, but tended to discount reports by the Zambian security service that an overthrow of the government would be attempted prior to Kenneth Kaunda's return to Zambia from a foreign tour. Attention was drawn to the growing East German activity in Zambia, particularly in military advisers, cooperation with the Zambian security service, and in assistance with political party organization. []

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ZIMBABWE

A number of disturbing factors, the Tekere trial, the housing of 17,000 ZANU former guerrillas near Salisbury and the forthcoming municipal elections may lead to increasing internal tension over the next three months, but it was anticipated that Mugabe's position will not be so seriously undermined as to bring about wide spread internal disorders. []

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LIBERIA

We continue to warn of the uncertainty of the Liberian situation. The stability of the government and Liberia's attitude toward the US is largely dependent on the character and timeliness of US assistance. The Soviet embassy in Monrovia is actively attempting to cultivate influential Liberians, and the Soviets, Cubans, Ethiopians and Libyans have offered assistance to the new regime. Increasing economic problems and a Liberian perception of a lack of US responsiveness to their real and felt needs could induce a sense of desperation and an acceptance of these other offers of aid. []

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SUDAN

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[] While there is no immediate evidence of overthrow of Nimeiri's government, the internal security situation is deteriorating and the ethnic and political situation bears close watching for the next three months. []

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